

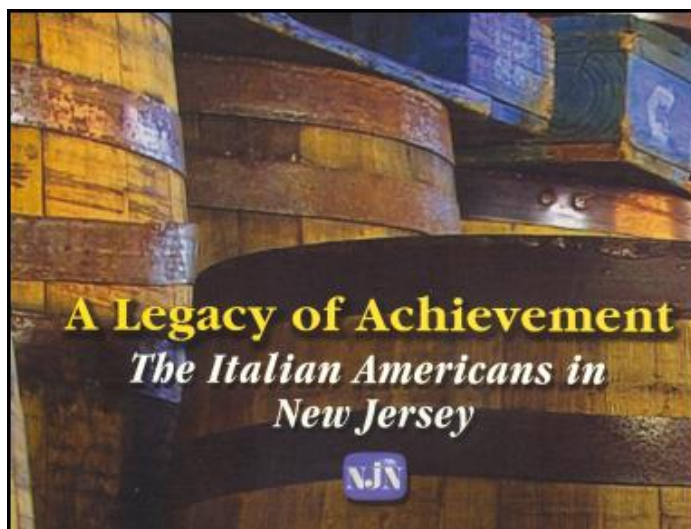


# THE NEW JERSEY ITALIAN AND ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION



## “Italians of New Jersey” Film Premiers

The New Jersey Italian American Heritage Foundation, partnering with the NJ Italian Commission, hosted the first screening of the new NJN film documentary entitled *“A Legacy of Achievement: The Italian Americans in New Jersey”*. This film was co-produced by the Foundation and NJN and was directed by Emmy Award-winning Italian American producer Mr. Louis Presti. Highlighting the values, virtues and traditions of New Jersey’s Italian Americans, this film promotes the



**Premier Screening of New Documentary on September 26, 2005**

positive contributions of Italians to New Jersey society.

The event attracted over 300 guests from the worlds of business, government, education and the arts. Mr. Joseph Piscopo served as the Master of Ceremonies for the premiere screening and the evening’s honoree was Dr. John Petillo, the President of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

The film will be broadcast to the public on NJN to over 14 million viewers on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 9pm and then again on October 15<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. The film was endorsed by the NJ Italian Commission as one of the first steps in combating the negative images of Italian Americans as portrayed in the media through positive media releases.

Commenting on the success of the evening and the screening, Commission Chairman Paragano said, “More of these types of films are needed to highlight the contributions of Italians to our world and our State of NJ.”



Film Master of Ceremonies Joe Piscopo



Founders Sal Davino and Dominic Romano  
Among 300 Guests



Governor Florio & Assemblyman DiGaetano



Director Marinzoli & Chairman Coccoziello



Evening Honoree Dr. John Petillo



Commissioner Larry Paragano



## THE NEW JERSEY ITALIAN AND ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

### Chairman's Message

On September 26<sup>th</sup>, the Commission and its partner organization, the New Jersey Italian American Heritage Foundation, premiered a new documentary about the Italian Americans in New Jersey. This film is hopefully the first in a series

of media releases in forthcoming years intended to promote a positive image of Italian Americans, helping to fight the negative stereotypes seen in the national media.

The Commission would also like to recognize another film produced by former Commissioner William Connell, of Seton Hall. Dr. Connell collaborated with a number of Italian American organizations and the Commission



Commission Chairman Larry Paragano

to host a nationally recognized conference that explored the history of defamation and discrimination against Italian Americans. This conference was developed into a documentary, partially funded by the NJ Italian Foundation, which will be seen by the public on October 12<sup>th</sup> at Seton Hall. Please view these two films this October with your family, in order to spread positive images of the Italian Heritage.

### Commission Upcoming Events

- **October 1, 2005**  
*Phase II Curriculum Pilot Launching for K-12 Grades*  
New Pilot districts receiving test curriculum models
- **October 10, 2005**  
*"Italians in New Jersey"*  
NJN broadcast of new documentary at 9pm, with repeat on October 15<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. Check NJN channel in local area for channel number
- **October 21-22, 2005**  
*"Mythamorphoses: Collective Myth and Italian Literature"*  
Academic Conference at Rutgers in New Brunswick
- **October 29, 2005**  
*2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey Italian American Congress*  
Statewide Convention at Rutgers in New Brunswick

## 2<sup>nd</sup> NJ Italian Congress on October 29th

Last October, the NJ Italian Commission organized the first-ever NJ Congress of Italian American Organizations, held at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. The event was attended by over 75 organizations and over 520 Italian American community leaders. The 8-hour long convention, complete with working sessions, lectures, panel discussions, networking meetings and community entertainment, was so successful that the Congress passed a Resolution calling on the Commission to run the event a second time this year.

On Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> the Community Advisory Council and

Community Outreach Relations Committee of the Commission are again organizing the NJ Italian American Congress.

This year's theme "NJ's Italian Americans – Serving Each Other" builds on last year's concept of "Unifying the Efforts of NJ's Italian American Organizations". This shorter convention, running from 9am to 1pm, will feature working group sessions for program planning and a review of the past year's Commission activities. All interested individuals are invited to attend the free event, complete with breakfast and lunch. Contact the Commission to reserve seating and exhibit tables.



Governor Florio, Commissioners Bilotti and Paragano & Governor DiFrancesco



2004 Congress Attendees including Commissioner Morresi and Manny Alfano





## Italian Curriculum Successful

During the past scholastic year (2004-2005), the Commission's Curriculum Committee launched the Phase I Pilot of the "Universality of Italian Heritage" curriculum for New Jersey's school districts. This Project tested new lesson plans and classroom materials about the Italian Heritage in 11 school districts around the State of New Jersey, potentially reaching 7,000 students.

The Curriculum is designed for infusion into regular classes on history, the arts, the sciences and other subjects and serves to emphasize Italian contributions to historical developments. In addition, the Curriculum highlights Italian achievers and also touches



Commissioner Gilda Rorro Baldassari, EdD.  
Curriculum Committee Chairperson

### New Lessons

Phase II Lessons for K-5 this year

- Pinocchio & Telling the Truth
- Legend of La Befana
- Commedia del Arte Theater
- Italian Fairy Tales
- Verrazano & Columbus
- Geromino Stilton
- Southern NJ Immigration
- Italian Renaissance Artwork
- Giotto & the Circle
- Legend of Romulus & Remus
- Travels of Marco Polo
- Italian Opera Music

### 2004-2005 Phase I Pilot 6-12 Grade Lesson Plans

*Roman Influences on U.S. Government*

*From the Coliseum to the Meadowslands*

*Da Vinci and Stream-of-Consciousness*

*Galileo's Investigation of Gravity*

*Columbus and the Oriental Spice Trade*

*Mazzei's Influence on Jefferson*

*Renaissance and Three Dimensional Art*

*Palladio and Republican Influences*

*Mirandola and the Concept of Progress*

*Darwinsim and Anti-Italian Sentiment*

*Italian Immigration to New Jersey*

*WWII Italian American Detention Camps*

*Literature on Italian American Stereotyping*

*Alexander Bell vs. Antonio Meucci*

upon New Jersey's history, including the "Storia Segreta", immigration to New Jersey and stereotyping and discrimination.

The Project was evaluated by approximately 60 of the participating teachers, 90% of whom rated the Curriculum as being valuable, relevant and useful as stand-alone lesson plans. This Pilot was designed to test 16 lesson plans for grades 6-12 and is setting the groundwork for a second Pilot this Fall, which will test new lesson plans for the K-5. 82% of teachers testing the Pilot indicated that they would use the Curriculum again this year.

In addition, the Committee is working to complete an Italian Heritage Curriculum textbook, which focuses on Italian history, achievements and contributions. This textbook will include timelines, biographies and illustrations, which are designed to be used with the lesson plans.

### CAVOUR'S COLUMN

The statewide celebrations of Columbus Day are important events in NJ's Italian American community, as they not only memorialize one of Italy's contributions to global society – journeying to the New World –



**By A. Roger  
Marinzoli**

Executive Director  
of the New Jersey  
Italian and Italian  
American Heritage  
Commission

**This Column is named after Cavour, founder of "Il Risorgimento", the 1847 Italian Newspaper, which promoted Italian unity, heritage and identity.**

but they also remind all of New Jersey's population about the achievements and positive aspects of the Italian Heritage. The Commission applauds Governor Codey's Proclamation of October 2005 as Italian Heritage Month, because such an official recognition from the State of New Jersey is a codified testimony to the virtues of Italian Heritage.

This month many activities and programs around the State will stimulate pride in the Italian American community. Two films about Italian Americans are being released, the Second Congress of Italian American Organizations is coming together on October 29<sup>th</sup> and the very successful Italian Heritage Curriculum is being again launched into New Jersey's school systems.

NJ's Italian Americans have a long history and traditions of which to be proud and by working together, we can ensure that the Heritage is not forgotten.



## THE NEW JERSEY ITALIAN AND ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

### Italian Month Proclamation



Governor Richard Codey & Proclamation

To help inaugurate Italian Heritage Month this October, the Commission worked with Governor Richard Codey to issue a Statewide Proclamation establishing October 2005 as *Italian Heritage and Culture Month* in the State of New Jersey. Acting Governor Codey declared that New Jersey's Italian Americans have made "significant contributions to our social, cultural and economic life through their rich heritage" and that "it is appropriate

that all New Jerseyans join in honoring Italian Americans for their many outstanding achievements and contributions to our State."

Since this gubernatorial Proclamation is valid only for the 2005 year, the Commission has begun to work with the Senate and the Assembly to try to pass a Joint Resolution from the Senate that would permanently establish October as Italian Heritage Month in the State of New Jersey in perpetuity.

The Senate passed its version in October 2004 and the Commission encourages the Assembly to consider the Resolution for passage after the legislature convenes again in January 2006.

The New Jersey Institute of Italian and Italian American Heritage Studies, located at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, is the operational body of the New Jersey Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission for program implementation and administration. The Commission, located in, but not of, the New Jersey Department of Education, was created pursuant to the enactment of P.L. 2001, Chapter 343 C.18A4-42 and signed into law on in January 2002. The Institute, a 501.c.3. entity with statewide jurisdiction, is charged with providing services to the public at large, as well as public, non-profit and other public service institutions in all twenty-one counties in New Jersey.

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